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S i. ccc
Docket USA)

MRS. JOHN C. TUTEN, JR.
128 ASHWOOD ROAD
VILLANOVA, PENNSYLVANIA 19085

Dear President Clinton:

I am very concerned that I am eating genetically engineered foods without being told that fact. I am sending you this letter to insist that legislation be passed into law that will require genetically engineered foods to be labeled as such, regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an ingredient in processed foods. Genetically engineered crops are not the same as those produced by typical hybridization. The Food & Drug Adm. (FDA), the US Dept of Ag. (USDA) and the EPA are being negligent in protecting the rights of the Amer. public in regard to genetically engineered foods. I am asking you to act legislatively to stop these agencies' neglect of public interest.

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled, although public opinion polls show a majority of Americans want them labeled. Time magazine poll - 81% in Jan '99.

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Last year the USDA even tried to include genetically engineered foods in the definition of organic!!! The EPA is allowing the Bt bacteria (a valuable tool for organic agriculture) to be genetically engineered into the structures of plants. This could seriously undermine organic agriculture & cause significant human health & environmental problems.

Varieties of potatoes & corn are currently being sold that have been genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). The Bt toxin stays in the cell structure of the plants & is deadly enough to kill insects. We are being told these foods are safe for human consumption, but we have heard that before about DDT, EDB & other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing. I do not want to eat genetically engineered foods that contain the Bt toxin. Nor do I want to eat "Roundup Ready" soybeans or other future products such as tomatoes that contain the gene from a fish! But without labeling, I cannot avoid it. So I am asking you to pass legislation to label all genetically engineered foods. Similar labeling has been passed already in Europe & Australia. Please write back to me & let me know if you intend to pass this legislation. Thank you sincerely Margaret Tuten



President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington DC
20500